

**HORWICH URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

**of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Chief Public Health Inspector
and
Housing Manager
for the year 1971**

HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor R. Yardley.

Members—Councillors Mrs. M. Carrie, E. Dobson, J.P., L. G. Fearnhead, P. S. Hewitt, G. Hind, Mrs. G. Klay, J. McBurnie, R. Moss, A. Oakley, A. J. Ratcliffe, W. Taylor.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:
§ E. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.
Telephone Leigh 73227/8/9.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager:
K. Ratcliffe, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health and Meat Inspector:
J. M. Lowe, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant Housing:
S. White

Technical Assistant Health and Housing:
D. Stevens

Senior Clerk:
Mrs. R. Brierley

Clerks:
Miss C. Swires
Mrs. F. Greenhalgh (part time)

§ Also Divisional Medical Officer;

Divisional Health Committee No. 11,
Lancashire County Council:

Divisional School Medical Officer;
Lancashire County Council:



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Public Health Department,
Public Hall,
Horwich

To the Chairman and Members of the
Horwich Urban District Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration the annual report on the health of the District for the year 1971.

The April 1971 Census revealed a population of 16,420 made up of 7975 males and 8445 females. Of this total, 765 were born before 1896 (240 males and 525 females) of whom 20 claimed to be active and working, and 3730 youngsters were born and alive since 1956.

The Registrar General estimated that the mid year population was 16,550 a decrease of 140 on the 1970 estimate, but a 130 increase over the census count.

The town's vital statistics continued to be very satisfactory. There were 288 live births and only 3 stillbirths and 3 infant deaths (i.e. within the first year of life). Consequently the birth rate persisted above the national figure (17.4), the infant mortality rate (10.0) and the perinatal mortality rate 14.0 well below the national average. There was no maternal death. The total death rate was marginally higher than last year, and perusal of the table on page 7 reveals that deaths from the cancers constituted 25%, deaths from the associated heart conditions 30% and deaths from respiratory diseases a further 15%.

Many of the Council's schemes of previous years continued to prove their need by the manner in which the public have appreciated them — warden supervised accommodation, the swimming baths, even smoke control. The improvement in the housing stock by provision of modern amenities will ensure the availability of good standards over the whole range of Council housing.

The incidence of communicable disease was exceptionally low.

In conclusion I am appreciative of the interest of members of the Committee and the Chief Officials and their staffs for the ready help and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR,
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	3,254.
Population - Census 1961 (provisional)	16,067
Population - 1970*	16,550
(Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimates - 1971)	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1971)	
according to Rate Books	6050
Rateable Value	£497,432
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£4,850
Social Conditions.—No material change.	

Vital Statistics.—

(Rates calculated on a population basis of 16,550)

BIRTHS	Males.	Females.	Total
Live Births:			
Legitimate	141	130	271
Illegitimate	11	6	17
Total	152	136	288
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000)			17.4

Still Births:

Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
Total	1	2	3

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) 10.0

Total Births: 291. Males 153. Females 138.

DEATHS

Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	2	3

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live birth	10.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	11.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ...	3.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) ...	3.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) ...	14.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths ... ..	...	...	...	...	nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... ..	...	...	...	...	nil
	Male	Female	Total		
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	112	118	230		
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 ...			13.9		
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 ...			14.6		
Ratio of adjusted death rate to national rate			1.26		
Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)	—	—	—		
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—	—	—		
Deaths from Whooping Cough ... (all ages)	—	—	—		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	20	23	43.0		
Rate per 1,000			2.6		

Causes of Infant Deaths.

Cause of Death	under 1 day		1-7 days		1-4 weeks		1-6 months		6-12 months	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Congenital heart disease			1							
Accidental						1		1		
Total	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics in respect of years 1966-1971

Year	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infantile Mortality			
	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. of Deaths registered	R per 1000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births		
1971	283	*17.4	230	*13.9	3	10.0	nil	nil	3	10.0	1	3.0
1970	273	16.4	226	13.5	6	22.0	nil	nil	4	15.0	2	7.0
1969	281	16.0	216	13.0	3	11.0	nil	nil	3	11.0	3	11.0
1968	268	16.2	232	14.0	7	25.0	nil	nil	4	15.0	4	15.0
1967	269	16.5	212	13.0	3	11.0	1	3.68	2	7.0	nil	nil
1966	276	17.1	208	12.9	2	14.3	nil	nil	9	32.2	6	21.7
Ave. 5 yrs 1966-71		16.6		13.2		15.5		0.61		15.0		12.7

* Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 1.08) = 18.8 per 1000

* Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.05) = 14.6 per 1000

The following table shows the causes of death at different periods of life during 1971.

[illegible]

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years								
					1- 4	5- 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1								1			
	F	2										1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	M												
	F	1									1		
Other diseases of digestive system	M												
	F	2											2
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1											1
Other diseases of genito urinary system	M	2										1	1
	F												
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1			1								
	F	1											1
All other accidents	M	3			2								1
	F	4		1								1	2
Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	M												
	F	1										1	
<hr/>													
Total all causes	M	112	1		3	1			3	7	21	24	44
	F	118		2					1	6	10	37	62

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service, Swinton 4343.

Care of Children - Children Act 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.

Area No. 4.

Area Children's Officer - Mr. K. R. Harding,

Ashfield Park Drive, Standish. Tel. Standish 3147.

Clinics.

1. Ante-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Tuesday p.m.
2. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis
Immunisation.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
By appointment.
3. Maternity and Child Welfare.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Wednesday and Thursday p.m.
St. Elizabeth's Mission.
Friday p.m. (1st and 3rd only).
4. Ophthalmic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
By appointment.
5. Orthopædic.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Friday each month.
6. Post-natal.
Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.
Tuesday p.m.
7. School Health and Minor Ailment.
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
Monday p.m.
8. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic.
Civic Centre, Bolton.
9. Venereal Diseases.
(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.
Males - Mon. to Fri. 9-30 to 12-30 p.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.
Females - Tues., Thurs., Sat. 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.

- (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
 Males - Friday 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
 Females - Wednesday 2-0 p.m. to 6-0 p.m.

Urgent Cases:

Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sats. 9 to 11-30 a.m.
 4-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
 Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service.

Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the district by Lancs. C.C.

Home Help Service.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
 Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

District Nurses are employed in the district by Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals.

Bolton Royal Infirmary; Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth; Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other hospitals situated in the region of the Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries.

Maternity Homes.

"Haslam," "Havercroft," and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton, and Bolton District General Hospital.

Midwifery Service.

Domiciliary midwives employed by the Lancs. C.C. practice in the district.

Nursing Homes.

Newlands Nursing Home, Bolton.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council.

Council for Moral Welfare Work.

Moral Welfare Worker for the area:-

Miss A. Rigby,

24, Acresfield,

Bolton. Tel. Bolton 26524.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by Lancs. C.C.

Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange,

Hourigan House, Leigh and Winifred Kettle House,

Westhoughton.

X-ray Facilities.

Available at Bolton Royal Infirmary and the Wigan Infirmary. Special facilities for chest X-ray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—Apart from 30 houses situated in the higher parts of the town all of the dwelling houses in the town are provided with water from public mains.

There were 78 samples of water taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. The results of these were as follows:-

Examinations from public supply.

No. taken	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
8	8	nil

Examinations from private supply.

No. taken	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
67	51	16

The unsatisfactory samples proved satisfactory on resampling.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Only extensions to new properties have been made during the year.

Public Cleansing.—During the year the following work was carried out by the Department:-

Tons of refuse collected and disposed of	7,142
No of dustbins and paper sacks collected	525,160
No. of pail closets emptied	1,768

The task system has been continued throughout the year and weekly collections have been maintained.

The service is operated by two S. and D. Pakamatic vehicles of 35 and 20 cu. yd. capacity working five days each week manned by two drivers and nine men. On one day each week a third vehicle is used to collect the pails from premises in the higher reaches of the town and to collect special items of refuse.

There are some 4,500 premises using plastic bin liners and the use of paper sacks has now been discontinued. These plastic sacks are placed inside the ordinary dustbin and whilst at present the majority of the dustbins are of galvanised metal these are being replaced by plastic dustbins as they wear out and at most new premises.

Sanitary Inspections.—During the year the Department received some 2043 complaints relating to all matters including refuse removal and housing repair. Throughout the year 2552 premises were visited for all purposes and 5508 inspections were made. The following is a classified statement of inspections excluding Council house repairs:—

Housing defects and nuisances	1324
House letting	290
Drainage	309
Refuse removal and disposal	198
Verminous or dirty premises	5
Infectious diseases	26
Animal boarding establishments	4
Factories	22
Smoke abatement	628
Improvement grants	714
Bakehouses... ..	5
Slum clearance	109
Ice cream premises	26
Food shops and food stalls	215
Meat inspection... ..	210
Shops Act inspection	152
Market	173
Water supplies	82
Offices, shops and railway premises	88

Rodent control	167
Keeping of animals	4
Milk sampling and premises	97
Miscellaneous	615
Swimming Baths and Baths water samples...	40
Noise	2
Houses in multiple occupation	2
Tents, vans and sheds	1

As a result of these inspections 872 defects or nuisances were discovered during the year and 825 were abated.

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959.—In accordance with the provisions of Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, the Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of matters under Parts 1 and 8 of this Act, which are administered by the District Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	23	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	12	4	—	—
Total ...	77	29	—	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
Total ..	2	2	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.—There were no outworkers notified as being employed in the district.

Shops.—Shops were inspected under the Shops Act and minor infringements were remedied. 152 inspections were carried out for this purpose.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.—The following is a statement showing the numbers and types of premises registered and the inspections made during the year:

Class of premises.	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of premises registered at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	6	21	15
Retail Shops	5	86	61
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	3	1
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	—	—	—
Fuel storage depots	1	1	1
Totals	14	111	78

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act - 88.

The following table gives an analysis of the contraventions discovered during inspections:—

Section	No. of contraventions found	Section	No. of contraventions found
4 Cleanliness	8	16 Floors, passages and stairs	10
5 Overcrowding		17 Fencing exposed machinery	
6 Temperature... ..	3	18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery...	
7 Ventilation	4	19 Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	
8 Lighting	3	23 Prohibition of heavy work	7
9 Sanitary Conveniences	4	24 First Aid	15
10 Washing facilities ...			
11 Supply of drinking water	1		
12 Clothing accommodation			
13 Sitting facilities... ..			
14 Seats (Sedentary workers)			
15 Eating facilities			
		TOTAL	55

Camping sites.—The camping site in the Heather Hall district has not been in use throughout the year.

Smoke Control.—There were three Smoke Control Orders in operation at the end of the year with a fourth having been confirmed by the Department of the Environment and due to become operative on the 1st October 1972. A fifth Order has been made by the Council and this is awaiting confirmation.

One recording station was in operation throughout the year and the results are shown below.

Daily Average.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	Apl.	May	Jne.	July	Aug.	sep.	oct.	Nov.	Dec.
(a) Smoke particles (microgrammes per cu. metre) Station No. 1	211	212	167	132	74	72	88	40	—	—	176	217
(b) Sulphur Dioxide (microgrammes per cu. metre) Station No. 1	230	186	154	175	89	83	61	71	—	—	102	156

Observations have been kept on factory chimneys and visits made to factories when managements have been kept informed of their responsibilities under the Clean Air Act.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.—None registered.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—There is one house let in lodgings which on inspection has been found to be satisfactory.

Swimming Baths.—The swimming bath continued to be popular throughout the year and was used by some 250,000 bathers.

Samples of water were taken at regular periods throughout the year and forwarded for both chemical and bacteriological analysis. The following table gives details of samples taken:

No of samples		Source		
Bacteriological	Chemical	Learners pool	Main pool	Foot bath
36		9	18	9
	4	2	2	

A good standard has been maintained throughout the year.

Disinfestation.—Cockroaches remain the main household pest and seven houses were treated for these insects during the year.

The disinfestation for cockroaches has been carried out by using Blatenex and the results have been very satisfactory.

Schools.—The standard of washing and drinking facilities is satisfactory and at the majority of the schools meals are prepared on the premises in modern, well equipped and hygienic kitchens. At the schools where kitchens are not available meals are brought in from a central kitchen.

Rag, Flock, and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.—No premises have been registered under the Act.

Rodent Control.—All complaints have been investigated by the Rodent Operator and in some instances by the Public Health Inspector. The following table shows the work carried out in treating surface infestations:-

	Type of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
No. of properties in the district	7000	22
Total number of properties inspected following notification	115	—
No. of properties notified infested by rats	95	—
No. of properties notified infested by mice	60	—
Total number of properties inspected for rats/mice for reasons other than notification	1049	—
No. of properties inspected for other reasons found to be infested by rats	—	—
No. of properties inspected for other reasons found to be infested by mice	—	—

In addition to the above work the town's sewers and refuse tip were treated throughout the year with fluoroacetamide.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—74 samples of milk were submitted for analysis to determine the presence of brucellosis and 16 for keeping quality. The results were as follows:—

	Positive	Negative
Ring test	1	73
Culture test	1	73

Methylene Blue Test.—All samples proved satisfactory.

Notice was served on the farm whose sample proved positive for Brucellosis prohibiting the sale of raw milk and this was withdrawn on affected animals being removed.

Ice Cream.—There are 2 persons registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 49 premises registered for the sale of ice cream under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1939.

These premises have been regularly inspected and are kept in a satisfactory condition. During the year 21 samples were taken. In the case of unsatisfactory samples premises and equipment were checked and further samples taken.

Food Hygiene.—The total number of inspections during the year was 285 which included inspections of vehicles carrying food. Generally conditions were found to be good and it was not found necessary to institute proceedings, it being sufficient to draw attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and to follow this up with further visits.

The following tables show the number of premises (by type) selling food in the district together with those registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act:-

(a) Number of food shops.

Type of business.	No.
General grocers	55
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, poultry, etc.)	12
Meat Shops	14
Bakers and Confectioners	10

Fried fish shops	10
Sweet shops (including ice cream and minerals)	19
Licensed premises, clubs, cafes, snack bars and catering establishments	24
Others	4

(b) Food premises registered (excluding dairies).

Type of business	No. registered	No. of inspections
Fish, fruit and vegetables	2	142
Ice cream	51	
Preserved meats	16	
Preserved fish	6	

Food Poisoning.—There were no cases of food poisoning notified.

Food Condemned.—The following tinned meat and other foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Meat	611 lbs.
Fish	171 lbs.
Fruit	62 lbs.
Vegetables	191 lbs.
Cakes and pastries	14 lbs.
Others	15 lbs.

The forementioned condemned food was disposed of by controlled tipping.

Shell Fish.—There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

Slaughter of Animals.—There is one privately owned slaughterhouse in the district which conforms to the Slaughterhouse Construction Regulations. All meat inspected at this slaughterhouse has been marked in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 and one hundred per cent inspection has been maintained.

The following tables show the number of animals killed and inspected together with details of the diseases found:-

Table 1—Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known)	—	500	2	927	—	—
No. inspected	—	500	2	927	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	237	—	47	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	—	47.0	—	0.5	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcass condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the course of these inspections 8,439 lbs. of meat and offals were condemned.

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

The Department is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all Council houses together with their letting.

There were 1367 complaints received in respect of Council houses and all of these were investigated, but not all of the required works were completed by the end of the year as it is necessary to give priority to the more structurally important items. 1503 visits were made by office based staff to carry out investigations.

Planned maintenance has continued to be linked with the external painting programme but unfortunately the target of 300 dwellings to be dealt with each year was not maintained during 1971 due to the default of one Contractor who failed to complete 80 dwellings.

The planned maintenance includes the complete renewal of defective windows, doors and garden gates and during 1971 302 windows and 86 doors were replaced, together with new eaves-gutters on 20 blocks of dwellings.

The five year cycle of painting and repairs which commenced on Hilton Estate will be completed in 1973. Experience has shown that whilst a five year cycle is common amongst most local authorities it is obvious that paintwork has deteriorated and so allowed the deterioration of woodwork long before the five year plan has gone full circle. Were the Council to be continuing to be responsible for this work it would have been my endeavour to reduce this time period—finance permitting.

A boost has been given to this maintenance by the Council's modernisation programme whereby pre-war houses are being modernised with the assistance of Improvement Contributions from Central Government. This work is in progress on the Brazley and Hilton Estates and as the policy is to carry out the work only at houses where the tenant requests the result would appear to be about fifty per cent of the total houses being modernised—is this sufficient?

The Council is also coupling the conversion of fireplaces in compliance with Smoke Control Orders with the provision of central heating. The policy now is to instal gas fired central heating in all dwellings and because, in the Council's view, the Parker Morris standard of heating is insufficient whole house heating is now being installed. This policy makes sense at a time when condensation is causing a great deal of anxiety and this state is very much accentuated by heating only downstairs rooms.

In addition to external painting internal decorating is carried out during the winter months at selected dwellings, i.e., those occupied by elderly or infirm tenants and where on vacancies occurring it is considered to be necessary.

The following items show in detail the work carried out during the year under review:-

(a) Inspection of dwelling houses—

No of dwelling houses inspected for defects	1256
No. of inspections made	2359
No. of dwelling houses inspected found to have defects	714
No. of dwelling houses, including those found to be defective prior to 1971, where defects were remedied	414

(b) Slum Clearance—

No. of houses represented in Clearance Areas	nil
No. of houses demolished as a result of action under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1937	10
No. of houses closed under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957	15
No. of families displaced and rehoused by the Council as a result of slum clearance	21

Improvement of older houses.—The following tables show the extent of this work during 1971.

(a) Improvement Grants—

No. of applications received.		No. of applications approved.		No. of houses Improved.	
Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted
41	2	20	1	21	1

(b) Standard Grants—

No. applications received		No. applications approved		No. houses improved		Amenities provided				
Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Fixed bath	Wash-hand basin	Hot water supply	Inside W.C.	Sinks
48	3	47	3	27	—	20	21	21	27	1

The result of these works together with that carried out in previous years is the modernisation of 474 houses. Again this cannot be considered a satisfactory response to the legislation on this subject although this is not peculiar to this Authority who have made every effort to assist householders in the pursuance of this scheme.

House Building.—A total of 81 houses were completed by private builders during the year.

House Letting.—At the 31st December, 1971 there were 579 applicants on the Council's general housing list, which is 79 less than the previous year. The number was made up as follows:—

Applicants living in rooms	99
Applicants overcrowded in separate accommodation (by rehousing standards)	46
Applicants living out of Horwich	32
Miscellaneous applicants	402

Some fifty per cent of the miscellaneous category are elderly people and many of these together with others are included in elderly people selected for occupation of warden supervised accommodation.

To help meet this need the Council in association with a Housing Association are to provide a group of warden supervised flats together with a common room and ancillary services.

In addition to this need there is also a shortage of small units of accommodation which again is to be catered for by the same Housing Association.

The Council has to date accommodated old people in 175 flats and bungalows which are so situated as to be satisfactory for applicants included in this category.

There are three sites at which Warden Supervised accommodation for the elderly is available. There are at Green Lane - 34 units; Flockton Court - 48 units and at Lower Claypool - 20 units making 102 units in all.

SECTION F.**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Diphtheria.—There were no cases notified.

Encephalitis.—No case reported.

Malaria.—No case reported.

Measles.—4 cases were reported as against 38 in the previous year.

Acute Meningitis.—One case was reported.

Paratyphoid Fever. No case reported.

Poliomyelitis.—No case occurred.

Scarlet Fever.—10 cases were reported.

Smallpox (Variola).—No case occurred.

Tuberculosis.—There were 3 new pulmonary cases notified.

Typhoid Fever.—No case.

Whooping Cough.—No case was reported.

Infective Jaundice.—1 case was reported.

